

JAN 22 2019

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE THE  
POSSIBILITY OF UPDATING "HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE  
BLIND" TO "HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF" TO REDUCE CONFUSION  
AND IDENTIFY WHERE STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND MAY ACCESS  
APPROPRIATE RESOURCES AND SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind,  
2 located in the Kapahulu district of Honolulu, is a Department of  
3 Education public school serving students who are deaf, hard of  
4 hearing, or deaf-blind; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, although historically students who were blind  
7 attended the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind, for many  
8 years the school has limited enrollment to students who are  
9 deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and who use American Sign  
10 Language for communication; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, many students in Hawai'i who are both hearing and  
13 blind attend mainstream schools in their local districts or  
14 other schools of their choice; and

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16 WHEREAS, blindness is no longer a basis to attend the  
17 Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind today  
20 primarily serves students who are deaf or hard of hearing whose  
21 primary language is American Sign Language; and

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23 WHEREAS, currently, all students who are hearing and blind  
24 in the State attend their home schools with support services  
25 with teachers of the visually impaired; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind  
28 currently serves as an identifiable office within the Department  
29 of Education that provides resources and services for students  
30 who are blind, such as a library of Braille and enlarged print



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1 books, assistive devices, orientation and mobility services, and  
2 Braille training; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the name of the school describes its student  
5 population and that its education program includes blind  
6 children and adults, which may generate confusion; and  
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8 WHEREAS, this confusion may create an obstacle to accessing  
9 important education and education-related services for blind  
10 children and adults in Hawai'i; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in order to change the school name, Board of  
13 Education Policy 301-8 requires that the Complex Area  
14 Superintendent recommend the name of the school, in consultation  
15 with the school principal, to the Superintendent, who will  
16 recommend the name of the school to the Board of Education for  
17 approval; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
20 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
21 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is  
22 requested to explore the possibility of updating "Hawai'i School  
23 for the Deaf and the Blind" to "Hawai'i School for the Deaf" to  
24 reduce confusion; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
27 consider identifying a separate office or section within the  
28 Department where students who are blind may access appropriate  
29 resources and services; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
33 Education, Principal of the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the  
34 Blind, Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind Community  
35 Council, Administrator of the Hawai'i Division of Vocational  
36 Rehabilitation, and Hawai'i Association of the Blind.  
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